

Seychelles delegation visits ICAR-CIFT to explore fisheries, blue economy cooperation

Kochi, Aug. 27 (UNI) A seven-member delegation from the Republic of Seychelles, led by Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy Wallace Cosgrow, visited the ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT) here on Thursday to explore opportunities for cooperation in fisheries technology, research, training and capacity building. The visit was part of the delegation's official visit to India from August 24 to 28, 2026. The delegation held discussions with the Director and senior scientists of ICAR-CIFT on fishing technology, fish processing, circular economy and quality assurance.

Speaking during the visit, Cosgrow said fisheries constituted the second pillar of the Seychelles economy and the country was focusing on maximising revenue from landed catches, particularly tuna. He stressed that post-harvest management was a crucial strategy for achieving greater circularity and value from fisheries resources.

He said there was considerable potential for collaboration between Seychelles and ICAR-CIFT, particularly in building capacities at various levels, adding that such cooperation could be a win-win situation for both countries.

ICAR-CIFT Director Dr George Ninan highlighted the institute's expertise and technological capabilities in the design and development of responsible fishing systems, fisheries processing, value addition, waste utilisation, quality assurance and post-harvest management.

He also emphasised the institute's experience in developing technologies aimed at improving the efficiency, sustainability and value of fisheries resources.

Members of the Seychelles delegation expressed particular interest in ICAR-CIFT's work on developing high-value products from rest raw materials and seaweed, as well as the design and standards of fishing vessels and opportunities for on-board training.

The delegation also visited various facilities of the institute to gain first-hand knowledge of its technological capabilities and ongoing activities.

The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen institutional linkages between Seychelles and ICAR-CIFT and identify practical avenues for cooperation in fisheries technology, research, training and capacity building.

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